



## **Shawnee Weed and Seed: From Community Input To Reality**

**Weed and Seed is:** a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office (DOJ-CCDO). It is an innovative, comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood revitalization.

**Shawnee Weed and Seed focuses:** on neighborhood residents working with police, human service agencies, churches, schools and youth groups to solve community problems. The goal is to improve safety and the quality of life in Shawnee by reducing crime and enhancing services and economic opportunities

**Shawnee Weed and Seed Steering Committee:** 22 voting members, including the U.S. Attorney's Office, DEA, Mayor's Office, Louisville Metro Police Department and representatives of human service agencies who serve alongside eleven Shawnee residents.

**Background on the Shawnee Weed and Seed Committee:** In July and August of 2007, surveys were distributed to Shawnee residents to determine the community's biggest concerns. Five priorities were identified;

**Community Priority I-** To reduce or to prevent Juvenile Crime

**Community Priority II-** To reduce Violent Crime

**Community Priority III-** To improve Neighborhood Economic and Image Development

**Community Priority IV-** To reduce Repeat Criminal Offenses (Recidivism)

**Community Priority V-** To improve police, community and court system communication and relations

Based on these priorities, a grant was submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Capacity Development Office. That was approved in September 2008. The grant will focus on several goals.

**Law Enforcement** - Enhance the effectiveness of police, attorneys, courts and probation and parole to reduce crime in Shawnee. Improve communication and coordination between law enforcement at the local, state and federal level.

**Neighborhood Restoration** - promote neighborhood revitalization by improving job training and employment opportunities, small business development, housing conditions, homeownership opportunities and the physical environment of Shawnee.

**Prevention/Invention/Treatment** – coordinate with human service agencies, and to increase cooperation between agencies and Shawnee residents and to develop new programs to reduce/prevent crime.

**Community Policing** - To engage residents in problem solving with 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Police Officers, to develop crime prevention campaigns to reduce violent crime in Shawnee and to increase the number of active block watch groups.